GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:171
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
UNDER TRIAL PRISONERS
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by the State High Courts to tackle overcrowding in jails and long pendency of trial cases;

(b) the total number of under prisoners as on March trial 31, 2001;

(c) the amount being incurred annually in the maintenance of such undertrials;

(d) the cases of prisoners disposed of till date; and

(e) the time by which the remaining cases will be disposed of?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.171 FOR ANSwER ON 29TH NOVEMBeR,2001

(a) According to available information, the High Courts ofBombay, Calcutta,Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir,Kerala, Punjab and Haryana and Sikkim have issued instructions to take up the cases of the undertrial prisoners who are involved inpetty cases on priority basis. As per further information made available by State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Goa, Rajasthan and West Bengal the respective High Courts have instituted measures for tackling overcrowding in jails and early disposal of long pending trial cases. These, inter alia, include holding courts in jai ls, holding Lok Adalats, providing legal assistance to the prisoners and setting up of Coordination Committees to review the cases of undertrial prisoners.

(b) According to the information made avaialble by the National Crime Records Bureau, the total number of undertrial prisoners, as at the end of 1999 was 2,04,480.their State-wise break up is given at the Annexe.

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission in its Report of June,2000 estimated that an amount of Rs. 55 was being spent per day on each undertrial by the State Governments. This comes to an amount of Rs.410.49 crore being incurred annually onthe maintenance of 2,04,480 undertrials.

(d) No separate figures regarding cases of undertrial prisoners are being maintained.

(e) It is not possible to fix the time frame for disposal of the.pending cases as this falls within the purview of the courts.

ANNEXE

NUMBER OF UNDERTRIALS IN DIFFERENT JAILS AT THE END OFI999

SL. NO.	STATE/UT	NO. OF UNDTRlALS
(I)	{2}	(3)
I	ANDHRA PRADESH	asS7
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	-
3	ASSAM	43110

4 BIHAR 39449

5 GOA 288

6 GUJARAT 4819

7 HARYANA 6015

8 HIMACHAL PRADESH 392

9 JAMMU & KASHMIR 1189

10 KARNATAKA 6780

11 KERALA 3390

12 MADHYA PRADES 18501

13 MAHARASHTRA I396O

14 MANIPUR 323

15 MEGHALAYA 574

]6 MIZORAM 486

17 NAGALAND 77S

18 ORISSA 8009

19 PUNJAB 7430

20 RAJASTHAN 6772

21 SIKKIM 8S

22 TAMILNADU 9289

23 TRIPURA 672

24 UTTAR PRADESH 44269

2S WEST BENGAL 8529

	TOTAL (STATES)	195003
26	A & N ISLANDS	211
27	CHANDIGARH	291
28	D&NHAVEU	39
29	DAMAN & DIU	28
30	DELHI	8776
31	LAKSHADWEEP	0
32	PONDICHERRY	132
	TOTAL (uts)	9477
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	104480

SOURCE: PRISON STATISTICS IN INDIA 1999.